

WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS
PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

1. A covering for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end, said covering having an inside and an outside and comprising a foamed or non-foamed gel composition having a Shore 00 durometer of from 1-100 and comprising a styrene-ethylene/propylene, styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene, styrene isoprene/butadiene block copolymer or mixtures thereof and, optionally, up to 90% by weight, of mineral oil based on total weight of copolymer and oil.

2. The covering as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said covering is a sleeve member having a form fit shape, said gel having a thickness profile such that the gel is thicker at the closed end of the sleeve member than at the open end or vice versa.

3. The covering as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising docking means for attaching said covering to a prosthetic device.

4. The covering as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said covering further comprises fabric which coats part or all of said gel on at least one side thereof.

5. The covering as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said covering further comprises fabric which coats part or all of said gel on at least one side thereof.

6. The covering of Claim 4, wherein said gel is partially or wholly covered with fabric on both sides thereof.

7. The covering of Claim 5, wherein said gel is partially or wholly covered with fabric on both sides thereof.

8. The covering of Claim 4, having fabric on the outside thereof and further comprising said gel or a thermoplastic elastomer or a thermoset elastomer on the outside of said fabric arranged so as to be capable of forming an air-tight seal with a prosthetic hard socket when worn by an amputee.

9. A covering for enclosing an amputation stump arranged in a recessed achillies configuration.

10. A polymeric gel comprising 25-65 wt.% of a styrene isoprene/butadiene block copolymer and 35-74 wt.% mineral oil and having a Shore 00 durometer of from 1-100.

11. A reinforced covering for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering having an inside and an outside and comprising a foamed or non-foamed gel composition having a Shore 00 durometer of 1-100 and a reinforcing material having an elasticity lower than said gel and arranged in said covering so as to protect a wearer and/or said covering from stress and/or abrasion when worn.

12. The covering of Claim 11, wherein said gel is partially or wholly covered on at least one side with fabric.

13. The covering of Claim 11, said covering having a form-fit shape.

14. The covering of Claim 11, said covering having a tubular shape.

15. An open-ended cushion sleeve for use by an amputee or non-amputee, said open-ended sleeve being cylinder-shaped and having an inside and an outside, said sleeve comprising a foamed or non-foamed gel composition having a Shore 00 durometer of from 1-100 and comprising a styrene-ethylene/propylene, styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene or styrene isoprene/butadiene block copolymer and, optionally, up to 90% by weight, of mineral oil based on total weight of copolymer and oil.

16. The sleeve as claimed in Claim 15, further comprising a reinforcing material having an elasticity lower than said gel and arranged in said sleeve so as to protect said amputee or non-amputee and/or said sleeve from stress and/or abrasion when worn.

17. The sleeve as claimed in Claim 15, wherein said sleeve further comprises fabric which coats part or all of said gel on at least one side thereof.

18. The sleeve as claimed in Claim 15, having said gel or a thermoplastic elastomer or a thermoset elastomer arranged so as to be capable of forming an air-tight seal with a limb or prosthetic hard socket when worn.

19. The sleeve as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the elasticity of said sleeve is higher circumferentially than axially.

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20. A cushioned fabric, comprising fabric coated with a foamed or non-foamed gel composition having a Shore 00 durometer of from 1-100 and comprising a styrene-ethylene/propylene, styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene or styrene isoprene/butadiene block copolymer and, optionally, up to 90% by weight, of mineral oil based on total weight of copolymer and oil.

21. A method for producing an article to be worn on the body, comprising shaping a cushioned fabric comprising fabric coated with a foamed or non-foamed gel composition having a Shore 00 durometer of from 1-100 and comprising a styrene-ethylene/propylene, styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene or styrene isoprene/butadiene block copolymer and, optionally, up to 90% by weight, of mineral oil based on total weight of copolymer and oil, and connecting a portion or portions of said cushioned fabric to itself, to another shaped cushioned fabric, or to another material constituting the article to be produced.

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